

Alternative versions of paragraph 1:

Dear Admiral:

Responding to your letter of September 25th, I am initially approaching COINS with two steps in mind. Most immediately, I want to satisfy myself that I have developed a sound basis for making the judgments that lie ahead. To do this, I am

now setting up a small group

that will be charged with making an assessment for me of the concepts and objectives that should underlie a national intelligence data base, the purposes to which it might be put, and the costs it might incur. I do not intend to re-do the so-called Malkin study, but I feel the need for a current assessment as a focus to refine my goals and provide yardsticks for us all.

and
its
cost effectiveness.

Dear Admiral:

Responding to your letter of September 25th, I am initially approaching COINS with two steps in mind. Most immediately, I want to satisfy myself that I have developed a sound basis for making the judgments that lie ahead. To do this, I am

setting up a small task force of representatives from CIA, ASD(I) and the Community.

This task force will be charged with making a basic assessment for me of the concepts that should underlie a national intelligence data base. It will also outline the objectives which such a data base should serve, the purposes to which it should be put, and the probable cost of establishing and maintaining such a system, including its cost effectiveness when weighed against alternative systems. I believe that such a study should be made both to refine my own goals and to give those charged with the development of systems for maintaining and exchanging intelligence data bases a meaningful yardstick against which they can measure future decisions.

Page 2, draft DCI reply to Chairman PFIAB

Original draft:

-- Analytical content. The IC Staff is now testing, for use in crisis and warning situations, the rapid exchange of current intelligence in a national operations and intelligence watch officers network running among the Washington area command centers. Watch officer bulletins might prove a worthwhile addition to COINS files. I am particularly interested in this project because it could take us one more step in expanding the on-line use of formatted intelligence materials for a somewhat more sophisticated analyst than the average COINS user at present.

DDI objection:

Delete paragraph. "This raises a subject on which there is a great deal of disagreement and, as far as I know, no decision that this program will be carried out. Moreover, it has implicit in it a decision to give consumer access to a COINS network. This is a critical decision on which we have to do a great deal of thinking. Finally, I have very serious reservations about the applicability and cost effectiveness of this kind of a computer application and think it premature to advertise."

Proposed redraft:

-- Analytical content. The IC Staff is now testing, for use in crisis and warning situations, the rapid exchange of current intelligence in a national operations and intelligence watch officers network running among the Washington area command centers. This project provides a test vehicle to gain practical experience with the use of intelligence materials that can be formatted and presented in an orderly way, thus enhancing the possibility for computer assistance to intelligence analysts. This experience can benefit files developed for COINS.